

(a) Peace and security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields, for discussions between the two countries. They had also decided that a mechanism would be set up to address these issues in an integrated manner and that the Foreign Secretaries would directly address the issues of Peace & Security including CBMs and Jammu & Kashmir, and coordinate and monitor discussions on other identified subjects. The discussions in the third round and in Edinburgh focused on these modalities of the dialogue.

During the discussions, our concerns about Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir and the need to stop such anti-India activity was categorically conveyed to Pakistan. Our concerns about the unprovoked firings by Pakistan in the border areas, which have resulted in the loss of innocent civilian lives and has tended to vitiate the atmosphere, were also conveyed.

During the discussions, we also proposed to Pakistan our desire to establish a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation; and to develop a wide ranging relationship covering economic, trade, cultural, people-to-people and other functional areas.

Expulsion of Non-Diplomatic Staff

210. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI G.L. KANAUIA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan expelled two Indian non-diplomatic staffers of Indian High Commission in Islamabad on September 14, 1997 just on the eve of Indo-Pak Secretary level talks in retaliation of India's earlier expulsion of two Pakistani staffers of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi;

(b) whether any code of conduct between India and Pakistan exists regarding expulsion diplomatic and non-diplomatic staff from each others missions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Pakistan Government has adhered to this code in each of their expulsions during last three years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):

(a) On 21.8.1997 Government asked Pakistan to withdraw by 4.9.97 two staff members of its High Commission in New Delhi for engaging in activities incompatible with their official status. In retaliation and on baseless allegations the Government of Pakistan sought on 3.9.1997 the withdrawal by 17.9.1997 of two staff members of our High Commission in Islamabad.

(b) and (c) On 19th August, 1992, India and Pakistan concluded a code of conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/consular Personnel, which obliges the two countries to ensure the dignity and personal inviolability of diplomatic/consular personnel and their families and also safety and security of the premises of Missions personnel. It further stipulates that intrusive and aggressive surveillance, verbal and physical harassment of Mission's personnel and their families will not be undertaken. We have strictly adhered to the provisions of the code of conduct.

(d) and (e) During the last three years (from 1994) Pakistan had sought withdrawal of eight officials of our High Commission in Islamabad and two officials of our erstwhile Consulate General in Karachi under false allegations. It is a matter of deep regret and serious concern that in two cases, Pakistan's official agencies had resorted to physical violence.

It has been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan that resort to such unacceptable, violent and intimidatory actions are in gross violation of all international conventions as also of the bilateral Code of Conduct.

Family Welfare Programme

211. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has issued a communique to the Chief Ministers of States and stressed to monitor family welfare programme personally by them in the States in view of the continuing increase in population;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of State Government's thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) Prime Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh on 30th September, 1997 bringing to